

MEMORANDUM

OGC HAS REVIEWED.

3 February 1954

TO: Chief of Mission  
FROM: Legal Advisor  
SUBJECT: Activities of Legal Advisor - Periodic Report

1. Due to the volume and complexity of legal detail in the Mission's operation, the position of Legal Advisor was established, at the instance of the Chief of Mission, who consulted with the General Counsel and other interested Agency officials. The assignment of [ ] was announced in [ ] Mission Directive No. [ ] of 3 December 1952. The Legal Advisor was subsequently attached to the Office of the Chief, Administration and Logistics, with direct access to the Chief of Mission as necessary. Following [ ] return to the United States in November 1953 on home leave and temporary duty for orientation in the Office of the General Counsel, the undersigned assumed the duties of Legal Advisor on an interim basis.

2. The function of the Legal Advisor is to assist in the planning of operational or administrative activity and with the legal questions and problems which arise during the progress and liquidation of the activity in question. This is set out in more detail in [ ] Mission Directive [ ]. Adequate legal assistance should aid materially in the efficiency and security of operations, and also enable Mission personnel to devote their full time to their primary operational or administrative responsibilities.

3. The various offices have been quick to present their legal problems and we have been quite busy. Often it has been possible to work out uniform procedures for handling similar matters. A good deal of time is spent in "preventive" legal work, where we discuss proposed projects or actions and recommend specified procedures or documentation, so as to avoid future legal complications or loss of funds invested. We also draft, or approve as to legal form, a considerable number of legal instruments, including all agent contracts executed in the Mission. The assets of several cover businesses have been turned over to us for liquidation. This latter involves a very large amount of time and legal detail, but these liquidations are progressing steadily and as satisfactorily as might be expected. Probably this aspect of our work will increase as the Mission reviews its current projects and continues to eliminate certain of them. A summary of certain activities of the Legal Advisor which are of current interest is attached to this memorandum.

4. Mention should also be made of the private legal problems of Mission personnel. Most of our people are far from those who would normally advise them, and they might also hesitate to seek outside advice because of security considerations. At times, also, their legal problems are caused or aggravated by their official duties or cover status. We

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can frequently indicate the proper course of action or refer them to a competent attorney. When a cleared attorney in the United States is needed, we can utilize one on the panel maintained by the Office of General Counsel.

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5. In order to keep abreast of [ ] legal developments and to have a secure and efficient means of accomplishing legal objectives, we have the full time services of a contract agent who is a [ ] lawyer and naturalized American citizen. He maintains [ ] a private law office in [ ]. We are also in the process of developing a panel of [ ] and American attorneys in various parts of the country. These men will be cleared if they are to be given any classified or operational information. The Security Office is being consulted on this program. We have a few essential legal materials in our office in the Headquarters building. For necessary additional legal assistance we have a channel, through the [ ] to the Office of General Counsel. Also we work as closely as security permits with the various offices of the Judge Advocate [ ], and the Office of General Counsel and court system of [ ]. The Chief, Liaison Control, is consulted on outside contacts.

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6. Experience has shown that periodic visits to the various Bases are necessary in order to give them effective legal coverage. Since ours is a one-man office it is not possible to be away from [ ] for long periods of time, but we will visit the Bases as often as possible. Also we will attempt to provide legal coverage for the other [ ] to the extent feasible and as approved by the Chief of Mission, [ ].

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7. The gradual return of [ ] requires that our operations be consistent, in so far as practicable, with [ ] law. This is especially important as regards the tax aspects of cover business firms. We will review from this standpoint any new operations and also any existing projects which are brought to our attention.

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8. As you are aware, the volume of legal work in the Mission results from the multiplicity of laws and regulations, as well as from the scope and nature of the Mission's activities. We must take into consideration and construe [ ] law, [ ] law, U.S. law, Army regulations, and KUBARK regulations, as well as the laws of other countries which may be applicable. We are also acquainting ourselves with the proposed Contractual Agreements and the implementing intelligence memoranda and procedures.

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9. We hope, of course, that the [ ] will achieve added efficiency and effectiveness through the work of its Legal Advisor. Brief memoranda on our activities will be presented to you periodically, and we will welcome any suggestions which you may have.

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